



CaSSos43 - HOW HAS STUDENT LIFE CHANGED SINCE 1901?

OVERVIEW

In this activity you are asked to write an essay on how student life has changed in Australia since 1901. This will involve using and assessing the usefulness of various primary data sources available to you.

The Census of Population and Housing is conducted every 5 years. The vast majority of Australia households take part in this data collection. This provides much useful information about Australians and can be viewed on the Australian Bureau of Statistics web site. Another data collection is CensusAtSchool which provides a small window into the lives and habits of Australian school children. The CensusAtSchool questionnaire has some questions that will be a useful source of information for your investigation.

INSTRUCTIONS

The Council for Student Awareness wants to find out how the life of a typical student has changed since 1901. They have heard about the CensusAtSchool project and they think this would provide some excellent data about the life of a student today. They also have some data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 1901 Census which they hope will help them understand the life of a typical student in 1901.

The Council has asked you to write an essay on how student life has changed in Australia since 1901.

Background Research

? Using the "1901 Australian Snapshot" (type "1901 census" in the search window on the ABS website, www.abs.gov.au) summarize the key aspects of life in 1901 and 2001 in a table like the one below.

? How does this compare with your own life today?

Go to the CensusAtSchool website and use the Random Sampler to obtain a sample of 200 students.

Reference year	<i>Select Year</i>
Select questions	All

? Use this data sample to summarize the key aspects of student life today in your table.

Student Life in 1901, 2001 and Today

Life in 1901
(based on 1901
Census data)

Life in 2001
(based on 2001
Census data)

My life this year

Life this year
(based on
CensusAtSchool
data)

Usefulness of Sources of Information

Think about the following questions and write down your responses based on the table above:

- ? Was the "1901 Australian Snapshot" useful? Why/Why not?
- ? How accurate do you think the "1901 Australian Snapshot" is? Is accuracy important?
- ? Was the CensusAtSchool data set useful? Why/Why not?
- ? How accurate do you think the CensusAtSchool data set is? Is accuracy important?

Discuss your answers with a class mate and then discuss what makes a historical source useful.

- ? Write down your agreed response.

As a class discuss what makes a historical source useful.

- ? See if you can come up with a checklist which you can use to assess the usefulness of a historical data source.

Essay

- ? Write an essay on how student life has changed in Australia since 1901. In your essay you should use various information sources (at least two sources from the table above should be used together with any other sources that you feel are useful) to support your view. Your essay should be accompanied by a self evaluation of the usefulness of the information sources you have used.

Extension

- ? Write an essay on "The Day in the Life of a Student in 1901". This would allow you to use your creativity to build on what you have learnt from your research.
- ? Imagine you are interviewing two students, one from 1901 and one from this year. What questions would they ask them?

Marking criteria

A student demonstrates	Mark
Clear communication of ideas using appropriate written forms	9-10
Very effectively explains the usefulness of census information for explaining the changes in the way of life of Australians over time	
Comprehensive location and synthesis of information to determine reliability.	
Good communication of ideas using appropriate written forms	7-8
Effectively explains the usefulness of census information for explaining the changes in the way of life of Australians over time	
Identifies, with some synthesis, relevant information to determine reliability	
Good communication of ideas using appropriate written forms	
Limited communication of ideas using appropriate written forms	5-6
Satisfactorily explains the usefulness of census information for explaining the changes in the way of life of Australians over time	
Distinguishes between fact and opinion in sources and makes simple deductions from sources	
Elementary communication of ideas using appropriate written forms	3-4
Elementary explanation of the usefulness of census information for explaining the changes in the way of life of Australians over time	

Makes some reference to the Census information
May make an observation about the statistics

1-2